



The Carillon June, 2026

First Congregational Church
Your Independent Worship Center
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A People of Prayer - Pastor Luke



In the last few years, Pentecost Sunday has fallen on Memorial Day weekend with surprising consistency. I find this frustrating. Pentecostal Sunday, for me, is one of the key celebrations of the church year. In my very non-liturgical, free-spirited church, it was one of the few major celebrations of the year. Right up

there with Christmas and Easter. In fact, that was the liturgical year for us (we would never use that term, of course): Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

Truthfully, not that bad of a structure as it covered the Birth of Christ, His death and resurrection, and the establishment of the church. That is what Pentecost Sunday celebrates, the giving of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the Church. My frustration is not only out of nostalgia but because of what is lost when we miss Pentecost.

Pentecost is a reminder that being a Christian is not like other identities. It is about being a spirit-empowered person on mission. A Christian is a person who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, declares Jesus is Lord and obeys his commands to tell others of the coming of the Kingdom of God to bring Glory to the Father. And the key often missed is the dependence on the Holy Spirit. We miss this for a simple reason. We don't want to be dependent on God for the Church to work. That gives glory to God, not us. It means having to listen to someone else. It takes trust and humility. It takes things out of my hands. We want the church to operate like a business. We want reports and programs that operate efficiently and produce results measured on a spreadsheet. We want to know what works and do that. We don't want to hear that we need to pray and place our trust in God. But because the Church is not a creation of humanity but God's work established by the procession of the Holy Spirit. It works in a new and different way.

So, I am sad that yet again we have missed a chance to reflect on the truth of who the Church is and how it flourishes. This is particularly important as we focus on the health of FCC and how we can reach our community. We hope to grow as a church and build a foundation for another 150 years of ministry to Fremont. And

that does mean programs, change, and so on. But the real key to us reaching our goal isn't programs, books, or anything else (though they matter). But becoming a people of prayer and a church filled and guided by the Holy Spirit. We need to take a moment and ask ourselves what God wants and what our hopes are. If we want more children, take time every day to pray for that. If we want more people as members, pray for it. If we want to make a bigger impact in our community through giving, pray for it. Prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit will help us reach our goal of being a church that is deeply rooted and future-focused.

BE joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12, NIV



June Birthdays

- 3 Lauren McKivitz
- 24 David Vandenberg
- 27 Jim Rynberg
- 29 Shirley Hooker
- 30 Ted Caris

June Anniversaries

- 3 Miles & Ruth Cowles
- 27 Ted & Jeannie Caris
- 30 David & Linda White



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 28, 2026

DRAFT

Present: Stacey Church – Moderator, Pastor Luke Schmalz, Jack Butterick – Men’s Fellowship, Bill Black – Trustees, Jack Stewart – Technology Board, Carrie DeMull – Clerk, Jean Morehouse – Women’s Fellowship Congregation members present: Judy Nadeau, Pat Krehn, Dean Morehouse

I. Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm. Pastor Luke offered the opening prayer. II. A motion was made by Dean Morehouse and seconded by Jack Butterick to approve the amended March 23, 2026 minutes as follows: Noisy Offering will be Sunday, March 29, with the collection going to Community Closet. The Good Friday service will be April 3 in the sanctuary. A motion was made by Jack Butterick and seconded by Bill Black to approve the April minutes with the following corrections: The Women’s Fellowship report was giving by Dean Morehouse.

II. Public comments Judy and Dean Growth Initiative

- Town Hall meeting, pancake breakfast on June 6 at 9:30 am.

1. Musical celebration.

2. Dean will list some of our accomplishments as a congregation.

3. Pastor Luke will launch some new initiatives. Worship on Wednesday (WOW). This will be a prayer initiative with a text coming to the members of the congregation that would like to receive them. This text will call us to pray about the church, pray for certain issues, pray for leadership, and prayers for the congregation. Sign up for these texts with Lorene. The second initiative is 60 invites in 90 days. We will be using ping pong balls as a visual aid. If anyone invites someone to church this summer, on Sunday morning, drop a ping pong ball into the glass jar. We will be able to SEE our momentum. Growth comes from a vision.

4. Judy will lead a role play exercise on how to invite someone to attend one of our Sunday services.

5. Dean discussed an idea about a gift to the congregation. A medallion will be made with the words “Be Blessed, Be a Blessing.” Also, a key chain cross with the words, “Be Blessed, Be a Blessing.” The EC decided on the key chain cross as a gift.

6. Dean handed the EC a note about “The Next Step.” The EC will read the note, make some notes, and come back next month ready to discuss.

IV. Board Reports

A. Board of Charitable Giving – Jean Morehouse

- Jean asked Phil, our accountant, to write a check to YFC Fremont Chapter. 7 kids will be going to camp this summer because of the generous donations from our church

family. FCC came up with about \$2800 for the kids to go to camp.

B. Board of Deacons – Carrie DeMull

- Member class is going strong.
- Rooms of Refuge will be here May 25 through June 1.
- Town Hall breakfast June 6, 9:30 am.
- Pastor Luke will be starting his hybrid school on May 26.
- Judy and Dean will talk about “The Ping Pong Ball Challenge” Details to follow.
- Need to clean out upstairs rooms so that the Harmony Hybrid schools can move in in July.
- YFC will be here for 2 Wednesdays in June. Meals will be planned for them.
- May 24th will kick off the start of the summer ecumenical services at the downtown Farmer’s Market pavilion.
- Crystal will preach for Mother’s Day.
- Father’s Day will be June 21.
- Cards have gone out to Yvonne Lee and Sally Deschetler.
- The Deacons are working on getting the directory split up so that each member can call on a member of the congregation to check in and see if they need anything.
- Carrie DeMull and Ruth Cowles will Co-Chair the Deacon Board. Kathy Kellerman has decided to join the board again. She is feeling better.

C. Board of Christian Education – No Report

D. Board of Trustees – Bill Black

- Through April income should only be at 33% of budget. We are at 51% of budget. Thanks to the congregation and some early pledges coming in.
- Expenses are still on target. Grounds maintenance and utilities are high. Should catch up over the summer months.
- 5 new door closures are being installed.
- Library chairs are fixed.
- Jeff and Bill working on the steeple lights. Looking into getting lights that will light up the steeple from the ground.
- The Vulcan gas oven needs a new pilot. Getting it fixed, but parts must be ordered.
- Quotes on fixing the parking lot are in the works.
- The light posts up in front of the church by the road need to be looked at.

E. Women’s Fellowship- Jean Morehouse

- Paid the health department \$425 to renew the kitchen license.
- Received over \$100 from the White House Luncheon. The money will be used

for YFC camp scholarships.

- New lights have been installed in the hallway by the offices and in the narthex.
- The summer annual gathering at Carrie DeMull's house will be August 17 at

noon.

• Baby Food Festival is coming July 21 – 25. The Women's Fellowship will have a booth there on Kid's Day the 22nd of July from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. There will be a kiddie pool filled with sawdust filled with Little Jesus's. There will also be a sucker tree.

- No meeting in July.

F. Technology Board – Jack Stewart

- Still working on extender problems with the church internet.

G. Men's Fellowship – Dean Morehouse

- 18 people have been coming to the monthly meetings. 40% are new to the group.
- Chef Ted Caris made a Greek lunch of stuffed grape leaves. Ted also did the devotional.
- Donations are taken for the lunch and then given to a specific charity.

V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

- New member's class will finish May 31.
- Pastor Luke went to a Civil Discourse Training at the Fremont Community Foundation. This training was how to have conversations with difficult people.
- The last meeting of the "Dirt Road Network" that Pastor Luke is a part of was earlier this month.
- The Memorial Day Ecumenical service was at First Christian Reformed Church because of the rain.
- Rooms of Refuge is here this week.
- Pastor Luke's classes have started up for school for the summer.
- Pastor Luke's office schedule will change now because Nora will be out of school shortly.
- YFC will meet at church on June 9, June 23 at church. A community meeting will be held at a park on June 30.
- The new member's ceremony will be either June 7 or June 14. A cake celebration will be held in Fellowship Hall after worship.
- Another small group in the evening is starting to form.

VI. Acceptance of reports – Bill Black motioned to accept the above reports. Pastor Luke seconded. Passed

VII. Old Business

- Town Hall meeting was talked about above.
- Bylaws discussion: Make a motion to present the bylaws at an all-church meeting for a vote from the congregation to accept the new bylaws. Bill Black made a motion that the EC accept the newly revised constitution and bylaws to be presented to the congregation at a special meeting to be held after the church service on June 28th. Jean Morehouse seconded the motion. There will be copies in the Narthex for the congregation to pick up and review at their convenience before the meeting. On June 14, 21, 28, Carrie DeMull will announce the meeting before worship to the congregation. A discussion followed. Jack Stewart has some questions and concerns about changing the Technology Board to a committee.
 - A vote was taken after the Bylaws discussion. 5 in favor of the motion. 1 opposed. Passed.

VIII. New Business

- The Carillon:
 - a. A discussion followed with some questions. Some things have already taken place by the time the Carillon gets published. Do we need to print the draft for the minutes more current tense? Put the minutes at the end of the Carillon? Move the EC meeting to the 3rd Monday of the month? Does the Carillon matter? Yes, the Carillon does matter, and Lorene does an excellent job every month getting the information to us. We may end up moving the EC meeting to the 3rd Monday of the month. If you love receiving your Carillon every month, thank Lorene for doing such an excellent job.
 - b. Luke will talk to Lorene about getting the Carillon out on the first business day closest to the first day of the month.

X. For the Good of the Order

- Stacey had the pleasure of running into Carrie Miller Tervier, the Fremont Middle School principal. This school year has been one of the most enjoyable that she can remember. YFC is there! Coincidence?

Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Luke at 9:00 pm. Next Meeting is Monday, June 22 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted Carrie DeMull

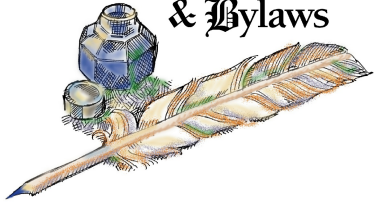


New Members:

On Sunday, June 14 we have the pleasure of welcoming new members: Kathy Fletcher, Alex Kellerman Karla Pfeiffer, and Sandy Spaulding to our family. Join us following worship for a piece of cake and say “welcome to the family”.



Church Constitution & Bylaws



Constitution and ByLaws:

Sunday, June 28 we will have a meeting following worship in the sanctuary to vote on the update to our Constitution and ByLaws. A copy is available in the narthex for your review. Or if you would like a copy sent to you by email let Lorene (congo@fremontfcc.org)

Absentee ballots will be available. Email voting responses are valid.

Memorial Garden:

A huge Thank You to Bill Black, Ted Caris, Brad Church, Karla Pfeiffer, Dan Price and Jack Butterick for all their hard work on the Memorial Garden. We spread 35 bags of mulch recently. Your help is greatly appreciated and the Garden looks great. Well done good and faithful servants.

Blessings to all, Mary Butterick, Chair



Men's Fellowship Luncheon:

The Men's Luncheon will be taking a summer break. There will be no lunches June/July/August. We will resume again in September.

Celebratory Breakfast:

THIS Saturday, June 6 - join us for a Celebratory Pancake Breakfast Town Hall. 9:30 a.m. Rev Rap & friends will be “live” from Fellowship Hall with welcoming music to add to the celebration. There will be surprises, balloons, and live music.

You won't want to miss this exciting morning!!



June Calendar:



Monday, June 1 - Women's Fellowship Board - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, June 2 - Book Circle - 1:00 p.m. Fremont Public Library
Wednesday, June 3 - Bible Study with Beth - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 6 - CELEBRATORY PANCAKE BREAKFAST TOWN HALL - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, June 7 - Worship with Communion & New Members - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 7 - New Members Reception - 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, June 7 - Deacons Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
Monday, June 8 - Technology Board - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 9 - Small Group at Pat Krehn's - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, June 9 - Youth for Christ - 4:00 -6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 10 - Bible Study with Beth - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 14 - Worship - Special music Stacey, Martha, Jack - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, June 17 - Trustees - 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 17 - Bible Study with Beth - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 21 - Father's Day - Worship with Communion - 10:00 a.m.
Monday, June 22 - Executive Council - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 23 - Small Group at Pat Krehn's - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, June 23 - Youth for Christ - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 24 - Bible Study with Beth - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 28 - Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 28 - Constitution & ByLaw vote - 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday, June 30 - Youth for Christ - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. (only if raining)

Thursday's - Women's Crafters - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

M/W/F - Men's Fellowship Coffee - 9:30 a.m. - ?

M/W/F - Woodshop Open - 10:00 - ?



Reflecting the Father's Name

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.

Our Church is to Be Sold -



Our church is to be sold! That statement may sound alarming at first, but rest assured, we are not facing foreclosure or financial trouble. Instead, our church has been planted with a purpose that reaches far beyond its walls and membership. It exists to serve the wider community and to share the hope of Christ with those who may not yet know him. That calling presents us with an exciting challenge.

Our church must be "sold" to the unchurched. There are many people in our community who would gladly worship, serve and grow alongside us if they simply knew what our church offers. Often, the greatest barrier is not resistance, but lack of invitation.

Each of us represents our church every day through our words, attitudes and actions. How much do we value its ministry? How much do we treasure the message of Christ it proclaims? If our church has encouraged us, supported us and helped shape our faith, that story is worth sharing.

Being enthusiastic does not require polished speeches or sales tactics. It simply means speaking honestly about what our church means to us and inviting others to experience it for themselves. When we take our church seriously and talk openly about its mission, we help open doors for others to discover faith, community and hope they did not know they were missing.

